

ELSAH HISTORY

Published by Historic Elsie Foundation, P. O. Box 117, Elsie, IL 62028

No. 86

Fall 2003

2003 — Elsie's Sesquicentennial Year

This year marks 150 years since the founding of Elsie by James Semple in 1853. Both the Village and Historic Elsie Foundation planned events for villagers and guests who gathered for the sesquicentennial celebration the weekend of September 27 and 28.

At 1:00 Saturday afternoon, the celebration officially began at the old school house (now the Civic Center) with music by "The Flying Weasels" — David Bates, Reid Charlston, Andrew Heining, Ben Schreiber, Adam Schumaker, Joe Van Riper, and Scott Wendelberger. Mayor Marge Doerr welcomed visitors, and Linda Cornell led those gathered in singing *The Star Spangled Banner*. The Mayor then introduced honored guests. Speakers included State Representatives Jim Watson and Steve Davis, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency representative, Catherine O'Conner, and John Williams, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Principia College and a local history buff. (See Watson's "history lesson" on page 4 and Williams' talk on page 2.)

The Village received greetings from many dignitaries, including President and First Lady, Laura and George W. Bush; Representative in the United States Congress John M. Shimkus, who also entered this event in the Congressional Record; United States Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald, and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Proclamations of congratulations were sent from State Senators Vince Demuzio and William R. Haine. These greetings were read by Jane Pfeifer, Merlin Lewis, and Lynn Schreiber.

The opening ceremony came to a close with a rendition of *America*, plus two verses about Elsie written and sung by Libby Young and accompanied on the violin by Erin Schreiber. Celebrants then gathered in one of the old classrooms for an ice cream social.

Also on Saturday HEF coordinated free tours of the Principia College campus that were conducted by John Williams, and night tours of the heavens with the college's 16-inch computer-driven telescope, led by David Cornell, director of Principia's Observatory.

Saturday night Eric and Lynn Schreiber organized a contra dance outside on Selma Square. Between 100 and 150 people danced to the music of "The Beat Pickers" (Ben and Erin Schreiber and Adam Schumaker), with Deborah Hyland as caller.

On Saturday and Sunday the Village Museum was open, and at Farley's Music Hall HEF held an art exhibit and set up a sidewalk café, with Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee for sale. Many of the pieces in the art exhibit paid tribute to the much treasured Union Hotel that suffered so tragically in a fire last April and is no longer part of Elsie's streetscape (see item under Village Happenings on page 10).

On Sunday afternoon the sesquicentennial celebration was brought to a happy conclusion with a house tour, sponsored by Historic Elsie Foundation. It was a great success. Twelve of Elsie's beautiful homes were open for all to see and enjoy. See pages 8 and 9 for pictures and more details.



HEF past-president John Williams telling the story of Elsie's founder, James Semple as Mayor Marge Doerr, Bob & Sara Rockabrand's kitty, Hope, and others listen.

Photo by Marie Oleson

James Semple: Founder of Elsah and Political Entrepreneur

Talk given by John W. Williams at the Sesquicentennial Celebration

He was born in Kentucky, moved to Illinois to start a law practice, fought in the Black Hawk Indian wars, was elected to the Illinois General Assembly, and eventually was elected to office in Washington, DC. Illinois' favorite son, Abraham Lincoln? No! Elsah's favorite son, James Semple!

At least one scholar has called James Semple a "prairie entrepreneur" because of his ventures in land development—including the establishment of Elsah—and tinkering with his "prairie engine." Let me suggest, instead, that Semple was an example of an Illinois "political entrepreneur," along with Lincoln and others. These men moved back and forth between private ventures, including law practice, and public ventures, particularly elected office. And, when they couldn't get elected, they received political patronage and appointments.

In 2003 Elsah is celebrating its sesquicentennial. Elsah dates its founding to the filing of a legal plat of the hollow, then called Jersey Landing, by James Semple on March 7, 1853. Hence, Semple is considered the founder of Elsah.

He wasn't the first settler in the area. Native Americans, in particular the Woodland Indians, hunted and gathered in the region. We have evidence of campsites, at least one village, and burial mounds near Elsah.

Information found in *Elsah: A Historic Guidebook* indicates that James Mason owned land in the lower portion of the hollow in 1827. Semple came to Elsah to serve as the postmaster of Jersey Landing, which pre-dates the Village of Elsah.

There are several paintings of Semple, revealing a pleasant Scotsman. One of the portraits, now hanging in the Old Capitol Building in Springfield, was painted in New Granada, now the country of Columbia, where Semple served as American minister. It depicts a man in full dress uniform, with insignia and gold-braided lapels. The face has a Latin American cast, but is a bit pinched and dour.

Let's be clear, unlike Lincoln who was first a Whig and then a Republican, Semple was a lifelong Democrat. He was born in Green County, Kentucky on January 5, 1798. Semple was barely old enough to join the Kentucky militia and fight in the War of 1812, which actually went on for several years. His service was during the years 1814-1817. This was the first of many forays Semple made into military service.

Semple moved to Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1818, the year Illinois gained statehood. He returned to Kentucky in 1820 to marry Ellen Duff Green and the couple moved to Chariton, Missouri. Semple had a number of jobs, joined the Missouri militia, and rose to command the 21st Missouri regiment. Ellen died within a year of their marriage, and Semple returned to Kentucky to study and then practice law.

By 1828, Semple returned to Edwardsville to establish a law practice and he joined the Illinois militia. Semple saw service in the Black Hawk Indian war of 1831-1832, as did Abe Lincoln. Semple started as a private, was promoted to adjutant and then judge advocate (an early form of the television show "JAG").

As the Indian war ended, Semple was elected to his first term in the Illinois General Assembly in 1832. He stepped aside to serve a year as Illinois attorney general (1833-1834). During this time, he married Mary Stevenson Mizner, the daughter of one of the authors of the Illinois constitution and the niece of Governor Shadrach Bond. He returned to the General Assembly and served as the Speaker for two terms. During these years, he was appointed colonel of the 8th Illinois militia and later commissioned brigadier general. Daughter Ada was born in 1834 and daughter Lucy (who later lived in Notchcliff) was born in 1836. That same year Semple made an unsuccessful attempt for the United States Senate.

In 1837 Semple took a break from Springfield politics and moved to Alton. He joined Adam Snyder in a land development venture called Tamarawa. Snyder was a fellow political entrepreneur and Black Hawk War veteran. The town was to be located on the border between St. Clair and Kaskaskia counties. The venture failed for a number of reasons—a growing national depression, distance from the Mississippi River, and competition from New Athens, a competing venture about three miles upriver.

Semple was in some financial trouble and without a job. His friend Adam Snyder, now a US congressman, appealed to President Martin Van Buren to appoint Semple to a political patronage position. In 1837 President Van Buren appointed Semple the second American minister (an early form of ambassador) to New Granada, which was the original country encompassing Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama. The American government, as early as the 1830s, was interested in negotiating access across the Panamanian isthmus, the predecessor to the Panama Canal. Robert McAfee, the first US minister, failed to negotiate a treaty with the New Granada government. In the four years he served (1837-1841) Semple was as unsuccessful. One historian wrote, "After four years of bickering, Semple returned to the United States with nothing to show but the ill will of the New Granadans." The next minister succeeded and the US gained access to the isthmus.

Semple's son, Edgar, was born in New Granada in 1840. Edgar Semple would eventually become the territorial governor of Washington. The family letters, a rich source of information about the Semples, were preserved by Edgar.

James Semple returned to Illinois and was appointed justice of the Illinois Supreme Court (1842-1843). On December 4, 1843, Semple achieved his aspiration to the United States Senate, appointed to the vacancy caused by the death in office of one of Illinois' senators. In 1847, Semple won re-election. His service in Washington, DC, earned Semple a couple of "footnotes" in national politics. First, he was an advocate of the "Oregon question," which gave rise to the slogan "54/40 or fight" and the political enmity of President James Polk. Second, Semple lobbied President Polk for a commission as the commander of Illinois regiments in the Mexican War of 1846. Polk, perhaps not wanting to give a political opponent opportunity to become a war hero, refused. Polk was probably wise, for General Winfield Scott returned to run for President (twice) and General Zachary Taylor won election to the presidency. Semple now returned the enmity toward Polk. So, when Polk needed Semple's vote for an important tariff bill, Semple let it be known that he was returning to Illinois. Polk appealed to Illinois politicians, including Congressman Stephen Douglas, to stop Semple. Semple did agree to stay long enough to support the tariff bill.

One wonders if Semple was bored as a US Senator, for during the years 1844-1850, he would return to Alton and tinker in his workshop. He succeeded in inventing (and filing a patent on) a trackless train. It looked like a steam engine mounted on barrel-like wheels. At least three prototypes were built and at least one survived successful field tests. However, Semple never attracted sufficient investors. The result has been unkindly remembered as "Semple's Folly." Ah, this tale deserves its own article.

By 1853, Semple moved his family to Jersey Landing to serve as postmaster and purchase the land in the hollow. He platted the little valley and called it Elsa (later spelled Elsah). Learning from his past failures, he offered plots of land for free if the new owners would build homes on the land. This would guarantee a community. Semple was not a fool, for he and his wife established the Elsa Building and Manufacturing Company to provide all the necessary building supplies. At last, James Semple was a successful businessman.

The Civil War appears to have had little impact on the tiny village. However, Semple (as noted in his letters to his son) was worried about the war. Union sympathizers would wander the countryside and attack known southern supporters. Semple was a defender of states' rights and, being from the border states, was sympathetic with the southern cause. Yet, he was loyal to the Union and patriotic to the North. For example, he urged support for loyalty oaths that were being required of northern officials.

Industry came to Elsah, including a flour mill and distillery. Semple directed the "paving" of the road out of Elsah into the county with planks. The Methodist church was established, along with a lodge of the Odd Fellows. Ferry service across the Mississippi River was reestablished. General-Minister-Justice-Senator James Semple, also inventor-entrepreneur, lived to see Elsah take root. He died on December 20, 1866, and was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, located in north St. Louis.



A "History Lesson"...

...given by Illinois State Representative Jim Watson

In the last statewide political redistricting, Elsah Village was divided right down the middle between two state representative districts. One of the speakers at the sesquicentennial celebration, Jim Watson, is a Republican from Jacksonville who represents the west side of the Village in the Illinois General Assembly. The east side is represented by Steve Davis.

Representative Watson did something unique and unexpected for his contribution to Elsah's celebration. Instead of the usual political speech, he gave us a history lesson. It should be no surprise to learn that he was a history teacher.

The following is a partial list of the dates from American history prepared by Representative Watson which he used as an outline for his talk. Interwoven with his chronology, and shown in italics, are events that took place in Elsah, most of which are noted in *Elsah: A Historic Guidebook*.

- 1853:** *The Village of Elsah is established by James Semple when he had the Village surveyed and a post office created in the name of Jersey Landing. By the late 1960s maps show the Village with its present name. The first advertisement of Elsah land sales appeared in 1854.*
- 1859:** *Elsah's Methodist parsonage is built, and Odd Fellows Lodge founded.*
- 1861-65:** US Civil War — 600,000 are killed.
- 1866:** *James Semple dies.*
- 1860:** Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as 16th President; the British Open Golf Championship is established; the US population is 32 million.
- 1872:** *Notchcliff is built on what is now the Principia College campus.*
- 1873:** *Elsah is incorporated and has its first election.*
- 1874:** *Elsah's Methodist church is built.*
- 1885:** *First interest is shown in creating Chautauqua.*
- 1887:** *Elsah's Village Hall is built for \$645.*
- 1890:** *Construction on Eliestoun estate is completed and Henry Turner and his family move in.*
- 1903:** First major film – 12 minutes long – *Great Train Robbery*; Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company with \$100,000; Teddy Roosevelt is President; first teddy bear is marketed.
- 1904:** *Long distance telephone service comes to Elsah.*
- 1911:** *Notchcliff burns.*
- 1912:** The Titanic sinks.
- 1914:** World War I begins in Europe.
- 1920:** Women are granted the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- 1921:** US population is 107 million. *Henry Turner dies; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lucy Ames, gives Sunday School room to Elsah's Methodist Church.*
- 1925:** *Mrs. Ames dies.*
- 1929:** The Great Depression begins.
- 1930:** *Principia buys its college campus, which surrounds Elsah.*
- 1933:** FDR becomes 33rd President of US.
- 1935:** *Principia College moves to Elsah.*
- 1939:** World War II begins in Europe.
- 1945:** World War II ends with 400,000 Americans killed and 45 million killed worldwide.
- 1950:** Korean War begins; popular film: *The African Queen*; popular book: *Catcher in the Rye*.
- 1951:** *Odd Fellows Hall is razed.*
- 1953:** *Elsah Centennial; the Dinky stops running.*
- 1965:** LBJ is US President. *The River Road opens.*
- 1969:** Neil Armstrong lands on the Moon.
- 1970:** *Elsah School is closed, becomes Elsah Civic Center.*
- 1971:** *Historic Elsah Foundation is incorporated.*
- 1973:** *Elsah is listed on National Register of Historic Places.*
- 1993:** *Great Flood devastates Elsah.*
- 1994:** *Historic Elsah Foundation buys and renovates Farley's Music Hall.*
- 2002:** US population is over 281 million. *An unofficial count of Elsah's Historic District is 140.*

Thanks to each and every one of you...

... who helped to make the Sesquicentennial Year a great success. For the historical record, this is an opportunity for Historic Elsie Foundation to express its sincere and heartfelt thanks...

To **Mayor Marge Doerr** for major planning, along with those who serve on the Village Board: **Mark Badasch, Karen Dearborn, David Haslam, Merlin Lewis, Ed Lewitz, and Lynn Schreiber**, also Village Clerk **Jeralyn Lewitz** and Treasurer **Linda Bohaker**.

To **Helen Sprague** and **Alma Barnes Tripidi** for their generous monetary donations to HEF.

To **James Green** for his generous donation of three pieces of art work, all of which sold during the exhibit at Farley's, and to other artists who participated in the show: **Gretchen Batz, Jane Bullard, George Cooke, June Cronin, Glenn and Judith Felch, Yvonne Hayes, Mark Hurd, John Lyon, Paul Robinson, James Schmidt, Lyndsey Scott, Rose Tomlinson, Bert Vandermark, and Jon and Jan Wright of Crocker and Springer**. The Wrights donated a beautiful piece of their salt-glazed pottery to HEF. And to **Dan Kistler** for allowing his graphic arts class at Principia College to participate in a poster contest and for his gracious and generous interest in our project. See story on page 8.

To **Jane Pfeifer** and the Museum Committee for the loving care they give to the Village Museum: **Marge Doerr, Inge Mack, Marie Oleson, and Mary Anne and Jim Schmidt**.

To **Eric and Lynn Schreiber and their children, Ben and Erin**, for organizing the very successful Sesquicentennial Contra Dance on Selma Square.

To those residents of Elsie who opened their homes, churches, and businesses for HEF's Sesquicentennial House Tour on Sunday, September 28: **Paula and Ned Bradley, Norman Brokaw, Barbara and Richard Butler, Debbie and Bill Flatley, Cindy and Steve Ira, Nancy and Bill Killion, Jeralyn and Ed Lewitz, Mary Ann Pitchford, Pauline and Mike Pitchford, Sara and Bob Rockabrand, Carolyn and Bob Ruland, Susan and Mark Young, the Elsie United Methodist Church, the Christian Science Church, and the three bed and breakfasts: The Corner Nest, The Green Tree Inn, and The Maple Leaf Cottage Inn.**

To those who served as hosts for the house tour: **Helen Andrews, Eleanor Barnal, Jayne Bennett, Chestnut Booth, Mary Catherine Chappell, Margaret Cooke, Linda and David Cornell, Sue Fuller, Vicki and James Hamlin, David Helmer, Adria Johnson, Alex King, Carolyn and Judy Lane, Susan and Eric Mack, William Monroe, Peggy Ouderik, Whitney Perdun, Kenneth Ryan, Jim Schmidt, Lynn Schreiber, Gene Shultz, Lynda Sleight, Sandy Stack, Rose and Tim Tomlinson, Mary Tober, Don Turner, and Dora Whitehead.**

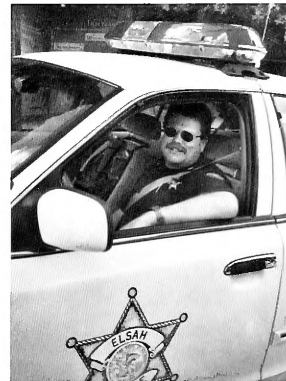
To HEF board members who served over and above the call to duty: **Paula Bradley, Inge Mack, Mary Anne Schmidt, Jeanne Shultz, Carol Stookey, Tim Tomlinson**, and to **Ann Badasch**, who donated equipment from My Just Desserts for use at the sidewalk café.

To Principia's College President, **George Moffett**, and Principia's new CEO, **Stuart Jenkins**, for inviting the community to enjoy the college campus with special tours conducted by **John Williams** and telescope viewing supervised by **David Cornell**.

To **Tim Tomlinson** and his son, **John Tomlinson**, for posting information about sesquicentennial events on their website, www.greatriverroad.com.

To Elsie's Chief of Police, **Larry Mead**, and those who helped with the traffic control and the parking of cars for the house tour: **Cy Bunting, David Haslam, Arno List, and David Pfeifer**.

And to **Bob Smith** for taking such good care of the Village grounds.



Elsie Chief of Police Larry Mead

Photo by Inge Mack

Sesquicentennial Scenes at Saturday's Opening Ceremony



Bill Rister, Marge Doerr,
John Williams, Steve Davis



Lynda Sleight, John Williams,
Martha Moffett, George Moffett



David and Jane Pfeifer



The Flying Weasels



Eleanor Barnal and Cora Stickler



Ben Staurowsky, Cy Bunting,
Lynn Schreiber, Marge Doerr



Jessica Booth
Katie Hampe



Donna Dodge, Ruth Deal,
Sue Hilkemeyer



Listening to the speeches



Lois Collins and Edith Hammond



Arno List, Mary Anne and Jim Schmidt

Historic Elsay Foundation's Sesquicentennial Events in Farley's



HEF president Marie Oleson, welcoming guests



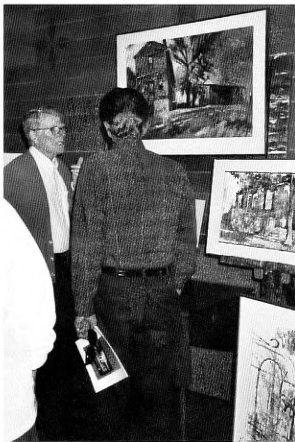
One wall of the art exhibit in Farley's



Carol Stookey selling house tour tickets



*Rose Tomlinson showing Sue Fuller
her handiwork*



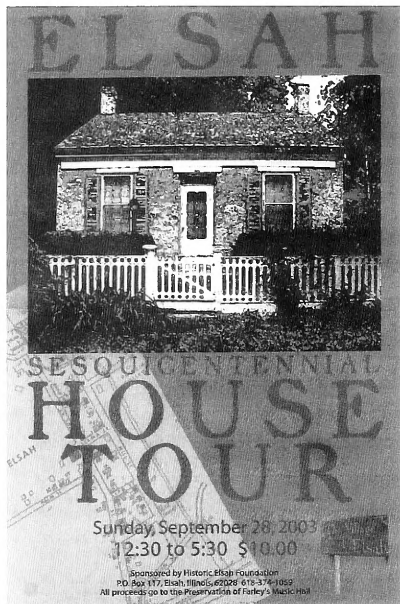
*Gene Shultz and Jerry Taetz viewing
the art exhibit*



*Saturday night's dinner for HEF Board and house tour
homeowners: Susan Young, Jim Schmidt, Carolyn Ruland,
Bob Ruland, Ole Oleson, Mark Young. In Background:
Pauline Pitchford, Cindy Ira and Mike Pitchford*

*Photos on pages 6, 7, 8, and 9, by Inge Mack,
Marie Oleson, and Mary Anne Schmidt*

HEF's Sesquicentennial House Tour



Last spring, in preparation for the house tour, HEF invited students in **Dan Kistler's** graphic arts class at Principia College to design a poster to be used in advertising and ticket design.

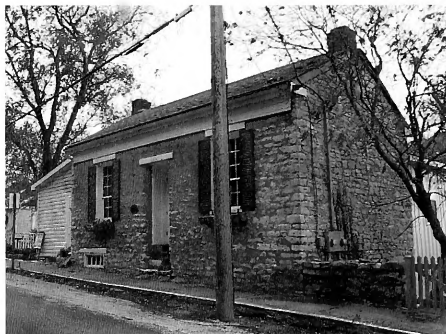
Nine students participated in the competition. **Breanna Cooke** was awarded \$100 by HEF for creating the winning poster, which is shown above, unfortunately not in its original colors.

Other students who submitted posters were: **Laura Drought, Lesley Hollinger, Aijaz Nakhuda, Mark Neil, Ethan Ruzzano, Per Skarie, Anna Pollock, and Heather Wilson.**

We wish we could show all the posters in this newsletter, but space does not allow. All participating students received two free tickets to the House Tour.

These two pages show pictures of the homes that were open on Sunday, September 28, starting at the river, in the order they were shown on the tour map.

Saturday evening before the tour HEF hosted a dinner in Farley's for the board members and participating homeowners, followed by a preview of the homes that were to be open.



#1 8 LaSalle Street - Barbara and Richard Butler



#2 12 LaSalle Street - Pauline and Mike Pitchford



#3 14 LaSalle Street - Paula and Ned Bradley



#4 19 LaSalle Street - Cindy and Steve Ira



#5 2 Maple Street - Nancy and Bill Killion



#9 56 Mill Street - Sara and Bob Rockabrand



#6 3 Valley Street - Mary Ann Pitchford



#10 66 Mill Street - Jeralyn and Ed Lewitz



#7 19 Valley Street - Susan and Mark Young



#11 80 Mill Street - Debbie and Bill Flatley



#8 54 Mill Street - Norman Brokaw



#12 108 Mill Street - Carolyn and Bob Ruland

Village Happenings

🔗 **Easter Sunrise Service at Elsah's United Methodist Church:** Community early birds turned out in their Sunday best for last April's Easter Service at the Methodist Church. **Reverend Charles Schwab** gave a warm and comforting sermon. **Arnie Schmith** did the readings, and **Tabbitha Bradley** lit the candles. The service was followed by a delicious breakfast in a beautifully decorated Civic Center. The organizers were **Lynn Schreiber**, **Cindy Ira**, and **Susan Young**.

🔗 **The Union Hotel** suffered such extensive damage in a fire last April that it had to be razed. It is greatly missed. The old building was an inspiration to many artists, some of whom displayed their work in Elsah's sesquicentennial art exhibit. **Nancy McDow** deserves unending gratitude for carrying, for so many years, the burden of maintaining her family homestead, which villagers often refer to as the Union Hotel.

🔗 **The Missouri Historical Society** offered a program for its members during the month of October. The program consisted of a walking tour of Elsah and lunch at My Just Desserts. **John Williams** led five of the tours, and **Marie Oleson** led one. Each group consisted of about 20 people.

🔗 **Elsah's Website, www.elsah.org** will soon be updated, thanks to Village Trustee **Merlin Lewis**. The new software will allow for easy access and updating of information.

🔗 **The newly established Chautauqua Historical Society** has published its first newsletter which informs us that "CHS is committed ...to preserve the social, moral, and religious culture of our community, and the historical traditions that support that culture...." At this time it has 54 members, and that number is growing. HEF board member, **Tim Tomlinson**, and his wife **Rose** are very active, Tim being editor of their newsletter, and Rose being co-chair with **Judy Hurd**. If you are interested in learning more, please let us know.

🔗 **Third Annual Lantern Walk:** On November 7, children, parents, and friends enjoyed a puppet show put on by **Moriah** and **Bram Vandermark**, and **Emma** and **Stacie Schaefer**. The show was followed by a walk through the village with lanterns and singing, and ended around a campfire with hot chocolate and other goodies. The Schaefers organized the event.

🔗 **Victorian Fireplace:** **Sue Collester**, former Elsah resident and HEF board member, has donated a beautiful antique heirloom marbled slate fireplace mantel in perfect condition. It is for sale.

🔗 **A Special Visit:** **Bill Hughes**, the great, great nephew of **Mary Hughes**, and his wife, **Kathleen**, visited Elsah in October. **Mary Hughes** lived in Elsah for many years until her passing in May of 1953. She was an ordained minister of the Assembly of God Church and devoted her life to her work. In Elsah she was known as the "Bible Lady." She lived on LaSalle Street in what was known as the "Bible House," now owned by **David** and **Jane Pfeifer** and occupied by **Edith Hammond**. Miss Hughes published a magazine called *The Liberator* and worked closely with prisons and other institutions to challenge social issues. Another great nephew, **Dean Hughes**, lives in Norris City, Illinois, and plans to visit Elsah next spring.

🔗 **Another special visitor, Lauren Long**, a student of landscape architecture at Chatham College in Pennsylvania, is studying the work of **J. Wilkinson Elliott**, who designed the landscaping at Eliestoun. Lauren visited Elsah during a beautiful weekend in October. Time was spent at Eliestoun with Principia biology professor, **Mike Rechlin**, and Director Emeritus of Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, **Tim Tomlinson**, both of whom are working on the restoration of the gardens. Marie Oleson helped to celebrate by hosting a picnic lunch on the porch at Eliestoun for Lauren and her friend **Barbara Stockham**.



A picnic at Eliestoun for HEF guest, Lauren Long. L to R: Nathan Rechlin, Jane Pfeifer, Ole Oleson, Barbara Stockham, Lauren Long, Rose Tomlinson, Tim Tomlinson, Mike Rechlin. Photo by Marie Oleson

🔗 **Book Review:** If you haven't seen the cookbook written by Elsah's own **Ann Badasch** called *Recipes and Reminiscence*, you are in for a treat. Among tantalizing recipes, Ann records her family's history in a delightful manner.

🔗 **Photo Contest:** Amateur and professional photographers are invited to participate in the fifth annual Photography Exhibit to be held July 16 to August 29, 2004. The exhibit is entitled "Elsah Magic" and will be in the Museum. The first prize will be purchased by the Museum for \$150. The purpose of the exhibit is to celebrate and foster an appreciation of the beauty and unique qualities of Elsah and the immediate area. Submissions must be received by July 1. Gretchen Batz was awarded the first prize last summer.

🔗 **Farley's Music Hall:** Historic Elsah Foundation owns this two-story building at 37 Mill Street and likes to share it for community and private functions. We are now using a small room upstairs as an office and for storage of publications. Proceeds from HEF sponsored events during the sesquicentennial celebration weekend, which came to an even \$3,000, were dedicated to the preservation and care of Farley's Music Hall.

Thanks to a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, Farley's is sporting two new screen doors, custom built by master woodworker **Rich Mosby** of Grafton. **Jerry Taetz** also gets our thanks for painting the hinges and door handles.



Farley's foyer

Photo by Marie Oleson

The old Buckeye coal stove pictured above, which has been in Farley's Music Hall since the early 1900s, sat for over a month under water during the flood of 1993. It has just been cleaned and beautifully restored by **Ben Staurowsky**. The stove will no longer be used for heating, but it now sits in all its new-found glory in Farley's entry foyer on a hearth made from used brick donated by **Ann Badasch**. Research indicates the stove was manufactured around 1910.

🔗 **Marie Cresswell** was recently honored by HEF with a life membership in recognition of her many years of service to the Elsah community. Marie has always lived in Elsah and has been a long-time board member of the Foundation.

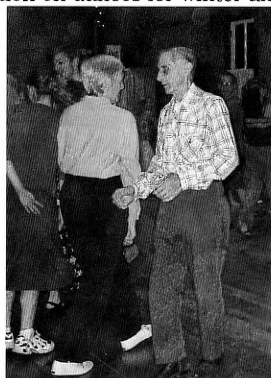


Marie Cresswell

Photo by Elizabeth Oleson

🔗 **Museum:** During 2003 the Village of Elsah Museum hosted 1,426 visitors. The annual bake sale on October 25 earned \$311.30 for the Museum Conservation Fund. Funds from previous sales and donations enabled the museum to purchase a life-size mannequin, which is now on exhibit as a school marm. The Museum closed for the season at the end of October and will reopen the first weekend of April 2004.

🔗 **Square and Contra Dancing in Farley's:** This fall villagers enjoyed opportunities to dance. HEF sponsored monthly square dances. And Eric and Lynn Schreiber organized contra dances, with live music, during the sesquicentennial weekend and again on November 1. See the calendar on page 12 for information on dances for winter and spring.



Jeri and Ed Lewitz having fun at the October square dance at Farley's.

Photo by Marie Oleson

Upcoming Activities in the Village of Elsah

Saturday, November 15

Trivia Night

8:00 p.m. My Just Desserts

Saturday, December 6

Third Annual "Home for the Holidays" with house tour, carriage rides, tree lighting
Sponsored by Elsah Business Association
2-6 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 13

The Square Dance originally scheduled has been cancelled.

Sunday, December 21

Annual Christmas Sing
Methodist and Christian Science Churches
Followed by refreshments, hosted by Historic Elsah Foundation, in Farley's Music Hall
3:00 p.m.

And for 2004....

Saturdays, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19

Contra Dancing with the Schreibers
Live music by *The Beat Pickers*
\$5 person / \$15 family / ½ price w/student ID
7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Farley's Music Hall

Friday, April 2

Museum opens for season
1 to 4 p.m., Friday – Sunday, through October

Friday, April 9 (to be confirmed)

HEF Lecture Series: Dean Hughes will talk about his aunt, Mary Hughes, Elsah's "Bible Lady."
7:30 p.m. Farley's Music Hall

Saturday, June 19

Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois
Afternoon Tour of Elsah

Welcome...

...to David Helmer – 6A Palm Street
...to Dory and Blair Smith in the former Keller Home – 22 LaSalle Street
...to Vince and Traci Millen and their dog, Max – 47 Mill Street
...to William Monroe and Tyrone Rice – Riverview House, 12 Mississippi Street
...to Melissa Million – 17 Valley Street

and Farewell... to David Haslam – 47 Mill Street to an apartment on the Principia campus
to Donald Gibson – 44A Mill Street
to Paul Garritson – 6A Palm Street

In Remembrance

It is with deep sorrow that we report the loss of two dear friends of Elsah.

Gail Haslam, a member of HEF's Board and a devoted supporter of the village, passed away last May. She was a Bible scholar and an Assistant Professor of Religion at Principia College.

Joanne Evans, a long-time Elsah resident who had recently moved to Michigan, passed away in September. She will be long remembered for her beautiful rose paintings on furniture and clothing.

Historic Elsah Foundation Board:

President	Marie Oleson
Vice President	Inge Mack
Secretary	Kim Crocker
Treasurer	Jeanne Shultz
Board members:	
Ann Badasch	Mary Anne Schmidt
Paula Bradley	Carol Stookey
Marie Cresswell	Gerald Taetz
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Elsah History is published by Historic Elsah Foundation.
Subscription is with membership. Editor: Marie Oleson

Memberships:	
Regular \$10	Supporting \$50
Contributing \$15	Patron \$100
Sustaining \$25	Life \$500

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